



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

SEP 06 2011

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

E-19J

Joel Skjerven, District Ranger
Eagle River-Florence Ranger District
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
1247 E. Wall Street
Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521

Re: **Final Environmental Impact Statement, Phelps Vegetation and Transportation Management Project, Eagle River-Florence Ranger District, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Vilas County, Wisconsin - CEQ #20110251**

Dear Mr. Skjerven:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the U.S. Forest Service's Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the above-mentioned project. Our comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA assigned a rating of "Lack of Objections" to the Draft EIS in our May 18, 2011 letter. The Draft EIS analyzed impacts associated with three action alternatives. We had no substantive comments relating to these alternatives. The ROD indicates that a modified Alternative 2 was selected for implementation. Based on our review of the Final EIS and the ROD, we maintain our lack of objections. By implementing Forest Plan standards and guidelines outlined throughout the ROD, the proposed project is not expected to result in significant impacts.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Elizabeth Poole of my staff at (312) 353-2087 or poole.elizabeth@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Westlake".

Kenneth A. Westlake
Chief, NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Cc: Christine Brunner, District NEPA Coordinator, USFS
Jim McDonald, Regional Environmental Coordinator, USFS